SlideShowPro Director User Guide

(For SlideShowPro Director 1.1)

slideshowpro

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Introduction

Thank you for purchasing SlideShowPro Director — the easiest way to manage, edit, and publish content for SlideShowPro.

This user guide contains all the instructions you need to install and use Director. If you're in a rush and would like to start using Director with SlideShowPro *right now*, and learn more about how Director works when you have time, follow the instructions in the "Installation" chapter, then open the *Quick Start* PDF that's included alongside this document. The "Your first slideshow with SlideShowPro and SlideShowPro Director" chapter will speed you through the process of getting a slideshow up and running within a few minutes. For everyone else though, it's recommended you follow along to learn how Director works, and the options available to you, before jumping in.

Here are the typographical conventions you can expect so see throughout this guide:

Parameter name
: Indicates parameter names that are assigned to SlideShowPro in Flash's Component Inspector panel. They will also be used (sporadically) for typographical emphasis.

`Constant width`
: Used for samples of XML, JavaScript, ActionScript, and other code.

`Constant width green`
: A visual highlight for code that is directly addressed in copy. It is also used for code that is appended to code that has been previously shown.

`Constant width italic`
: A placeholder within code samples that should be substituted with your own value.

Let's get started with a general overview of how Director works.

How SlideShowPro Director works

SlideShowPro Director is a server-side content management system for SlideShowPro, the photo gallery and slideshow component for Flash. The software is installed on your own web server, and is always on-call to supply the content one or more slideshows created with SlideShowPro need.

BROWSER-BASED MANAGEMENT

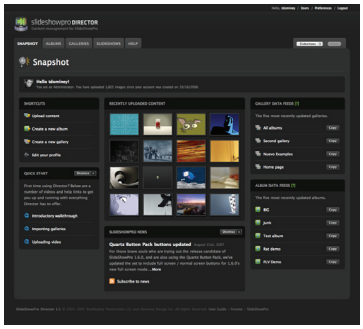


Figure: Snapshot page

All content uploads and basic management is handled through any standards-compliant web browser (Firefox, IE 6, IE 7 and Safari supported). Multiple user accounts with varying levels of editorial control may be created; allowing non-administrators the ability to easily update slideshow content through their own web browser. Director users can upload as many images and/or videos as they want, and organize them using two container types: albums, and galleries. Uploaded content can be copied, moved, or deleted at any time.

ALWAYS IN SYNC

Whenever a content change is made in Director, any slideshow linked to the affected content will reflect those changes. For example, if you had a slideshow on your home page, and wanted to change the order of content in a particular album, those changes would be made in Director. Additionally, if you needed to remove content from a slideshow but *not* delete it from Director, any image, video, or album in Director can be made "inactive" so it's temporarily unavailable for viewing.

Figure: SlideShowPro

ON-DEMAND IMAGE PUBLISHING

Director publishes first generation, web-optimized imagery tailored to fit any slideshow that requests content. The original images you upload are used each time content is published, so your slideshow imagery is always the highest possible quality regardless of how many slideshows are accessing the same content. For faster delivery, published images are cached and reused each time a request is made that does not contain new formatting requirements.

AUTOMATIC METADATA GENERATION

If your images have embedded IPTC caption metadata, Director will automatically use it for your image captions. Additionally, any album can be configured to automatically assign a title, link, or caption to all current *and* future content uploaded to that album. This allows you to continually upload new content without having to hand-edit associated metadata.

ONWARD!

That, in a nutshell, is how SlideShowPro Director works. Next we'll cover how to install the software on your web server.

Installation

Ready to install Director? Let's go!

SERVER REQUIREMENTS

Director requires a web server running Linux, Unix, or Windows with Apache 1.3 or higher. A Windows server running IIS 5.0+ is also acceptable. Additionally, PHP (4.3.7+ with safe mode disabled) and MySQL (3.23.23+) are also required. Server requirements may be tested with the Director Server Compatibility Script, available for download here:

`http://slideshowpro.net/downloads/director_test/director_test.zip`

STEP ONE: UPLOAD DIRECTOR

Open your FTP application, and make sure its transfer mode is set to "Auto." Next, upload the folder named `ssp_director` (included alongside this guide) anywhere you like to your web server. For the rest of this chapter we'll assume you uploaded it to the root of your domain (`http://www.myserver.com/ssp_director`).

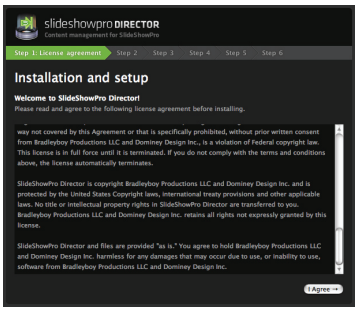
STEP TWO: SETUP THE DATABASE

Director requires a new or existing MySQL database. Director cannot create the database for you. It must be created through your hosting provider. If you're not sure how to create one, contact your web host for instructions.

Once your database is ready, collect these four pieces of information:

1. MySQL Host Name (e.g. *mysql.myserver.com* or *localhost*)
2. MySQL Database - The name of the database Director should use.
3. MySQL User name - The user name to login to your MySQL host.
4. MySQL Password - The password for this user name.

STEP THREE: INSTALL DIRECTOR


slideshowpro DIRECTOR
Content management for SlideShowPro
Step 1: License agreement
Step 2
Step 3
Step 4
Step 5
Step 6
Installation and setup
Welcome to SlideShowPro Director!
Please read and agree to the following license agreement before installing.
way not covered by this Agreement or that is specifically prohibited, without prior written consent from Bradleyboy Productions LLC and Dominey Design Inc., is a violation of Federal copyright law. This license is in full force until it is terminated. If you do not comply with the terms and conditions above, the license automatically terminates.
SlideShowPro Director is copyright Bradleyboy Productions LLC and Dominey Design Inc. and is protected by the United States Copyright laws, international treaty provisions and other applicable laws. No title or intellectual property rights in SlideShowPro Director are transferred to you. Bradleyboy Productions LLC and Dominey Design Inc. retains all rights not expressly granted by this license.
SlideShowPro Director and files are provided "as is." You agree to hold Bradleyboy Productions LLC and Dominey Design Inc. harmless for any damages that may occur due to use, or inability to use, software from Bradleyboy Productions LLC and Dominey Design Inc.
I Agree →
Figure: Installation screen

Open `http://www.myserver.com/ssp_director/` in your web browser. The "Installation and setup" screen will load (see left), and begin the six step process of installing Director.

INSTALLATION STEP ONE: LICENSE AGREEMENT

Read the EULA for SlideShowPro Director. If acceptable, click "I Agree."

INSTALLATION STEP TWO: SERVER TEST RESULTS

Step two displays the results of a basic server compatibility test. If everything is okay, click "Continue Installation." If there's an issue, Director will provide more information.

INSTALLATION STEP THREE: KEY AUTHENTICATION

Enter the Director activation key issued to you. If you don't have a key, visit `http://slideshowpro.net` and click on "User Login" at the top right. Login to your profile. On the right side of your profile page will be a block containing your Director activation key. Copy the key, return to Director, and paste it into the form field. Then continue on.

INSTALLATION STEP FOUR: ENTER DATABASE INFORMATION

Enter the information you gathered in "Step Two: Setup the Database" into the appropriate fields. The fifth field, "Database Table Prefix," should only be modified by advanced users. Everyone else can leave it alone. When complete click the "Setup database" button.

INSTALLATION STEP FIVE: SETUP ADMINISTRATOR

Enter the username, e-mail, and password for the administrative contact. This user will have full access to all of Director's functionality. When complete, click the "Install Director" button.

INSTALLATION STEP SIX: INSTALLATION CONFIRMATION

Step six displays the results of your installation. If all went well, you should see nothing but green check marks. Click the "Login now" button to complete the installation process and login to Director.

DONE!

Installation is now complete! Go ahead and login to Director with the username and password entered in "Installation Step Five" above. But before you start uploading, let's first familiarize ourselves with how Director organizes content.

Albums

Albums are containers for your slideshow content. Every image and/or video you upload must be contributed to an album in order for it to be managed by SlideShowPro Director. All albums contain a title, a description, an ID, and an XML file path to load album content into SlideShowPro. You may upload as much content as you want, and edit that content's metadata (title, hyperlink, caption) as a group or individually. Content can also be copied or moved between albums. There is no limit to the number of albums you can create, and they may be deleted or edited at any time.

ALBUMS INDEX

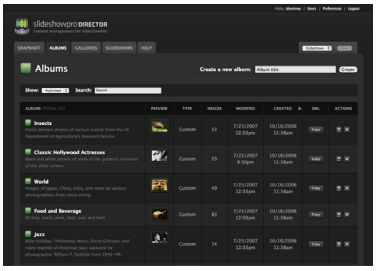


Figure: Albums index

Albums are managed in the "Albums" index. It is here that new albums are created, and existing albums are deleted. All albums are displayed by default, but if you're searching for a specific album you may filter the list through the "Show" utility above the table. You may also click on the "Albums," "Type," "Images," "Modified" and "Created" headers to vertically sort the list according to that column's criteria. Clicking on an album title will open that album for editing.

ACTIVE / INACTIVE

Figure: Inactive album

New albums begin with an "inactive" publish status. This means that the album is considered unfinished and not included in any custom or smart gallery. This allows time for you to upload content and edit metadata before publishing it as an "active" album that can be considered for inclusion elsewhere. If an album is changed from active to inactive, the album is automatically removed from any gallery containing it.

Inactive albums are noted in the "Albums" section with a modified album icon (see above). You can toggle the active / inactive state of an album anytime by clicking on the light switch button at the end of that album's row (under the "Actions" column header).

EDIT ALBUM / SUMMARY

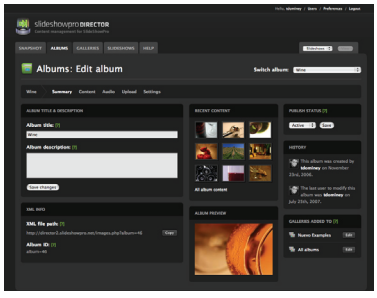


Figure: Album Summary page

Clicking an album title from most pages within Director will load the "Edit album" section for that particular album. This section is broken up into five sub-areas: "Summary," "Content," "Audio," "Upload" and "Settings."

"Summary" provides inputs to set an album's title and description, copy the album's XML File Path, as well as historical content so you can see what content was recently added and who added it. You can also see (and click through) to any gallery that contains the album.

EDIT ALBUM / CONTENT

"Content" is where all the images and videos associated with an album are sorted, edited and managed.

SORTING

The order in which content is sorted is the order it will appear in a slideshow. By default, content is automatically sorted in the order in which it was uploaded. To manually change this, click, hold, and drag any image into your preferred order.

If you'd rather automatically sort content, options include "File name," "Date (newest first)" and "Date (oldest first)." Selecting these will hand sorting control over to Director for both existing *and* future content. When an auto sorting option is used, any new content that is uploaded will automatically fall into place.

When order is changed through either method, the slideshow order field (see above right) will update with the numerical positions of each content piece.

EDITING

To add a title, hyperlink, caption, or assign an image as the album preview, click an image's edit button. A new window will appear offering inputs for you to make these changes.

> Note: To globally assign titles, hyperlinks and captions to all current and future content associated with an album, see the "Edit album > Settings" section on the next page.

MANAGING

Like albums, content can be toggled active or inactive. Toggling them inactive will temporarily remove the content from their album (and any gallery containing the album). Activating will bring it back. If you'd rather remove content all together, click the delete button. To copy and/or permanently move content to another album, click the copy/move button.

BATCH SELECTING

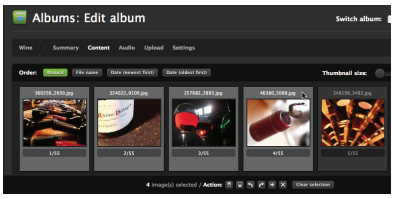


Figure: Four images batch selected

To rotate, copy, move, or delete a group of content, hold down the Command (Mac) or CTRL key (Windows) and click on the file name of the first content piece. Continue holding the key down and click on other file names to add them to the selection. If you'd rather select a range of content all at once, release the Command/CTRL key, press and hold the Shift key, and select the last piece of content within the range you want. Either way, selected content will illuminate and Director will offer batch editing tools at the bottom of the browser window. To cancel your selection, click the "Clear selection" button or press the ESC key.

ALBUMS: EDIT ALBUM / AUDIO

The "Audio" section is where you can assign an MP3 file to be used as background audio for that particular album. When the album is loaded in SlideShowPro, the component's Media Player interface will appear (see the *SlideShowPro User Guide*) and playback the assigned MP3 while your slideshow is being viewed. MP3s are added to Directory through the "Upload" section, which we'll discuss next.

ALBUMS: EDIT ALBUM / UPLOAD

Each album has its own "Upload" section to upload slideshow content, custom album preview images, and audio. The utility allows you to upload one or more pieces of content at the same time. For more detailed information about uploading, see the "Content uploading and importing" chapter later in this guide.

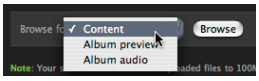


Figure: Browse for content

ALBUMS: EDIT ALBUM / SETTINGS

"Settings" is where general options can be assigned to an album. Currently, this screen includes a single module: "Image metadata defaults." This module allows you to globally assign image titles, hyperlinks, and captions to all existing and future content in an album. There are a variety of options for both links and captions, which you can read about in the "Edit" area for each metadata type.

Galleries

A gallery is a collection of albums. It serves one purpose: to group your albums together as a single collection for a slideshow. There are two types of galleries: “Custom” and “Smart.” A “Custom” gallery is one you create and populate with albums. You may add or remove any album from a custom gallery. A “Smart” gallery is created by SlideShowPro Director and populated automatically. The content a smart gallery contains cannot be changed, nor can a smart gallery be deleted.

GALLERIES INDEX

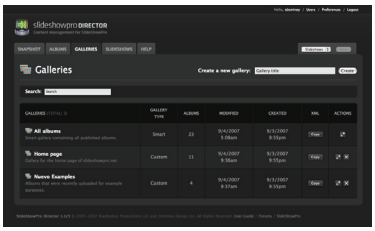


Figure: Galleries index

Galleries are managed in the “Galleries” index. It is here that new galleries are created, and existing galleries are deleted. All galleries are displayed by default, but if you’re searching for a specific gallery you may filter the list through the “Search” utility above the table. You may also click on the “Galleries,” “Type,” “Albums,” “Modified” and “Created” headers to vertically sort the list according to that column’s criteria. Clicking on an gallery title will open that gallery for editing.

EDIT GALLERY / SUMMARY

Clicking a gallery title from most pages within Director will load the “Edit gallery” section for that particular gallery. There are two sub-areas within this section: “Summary” and “Manage albums.”

“Summary” provides inputs to set an gallery’s title and description, as well as a button to copy the gallery’s XML File Path. The Summary page also displays which albums are in a gallery, and in what order they appear when loaded in a slideshow.

EDIT GALLERY / MANAGE ALBUMS

“Manage albums” is where you decide which albums are included or excluded in a gallery. All active albums are displayed for you to choose from. To include an album, toggle an album’s light switch button to the up position. To exclude, flip it down.

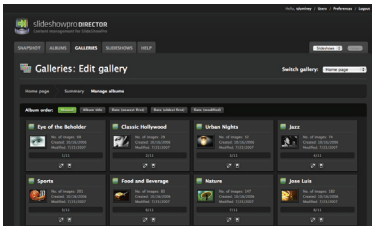


Figure: Manage albums

ALBUM SORTING

Like album content (see the “Albums” chapter), you can manually or automatically control the order of albums in a gallery. The order that is established here will be used when populating the gallery section of SlideShowPro. To manually sort, click and hold on an album title and drag the album into the position you want. To automatically sort, click on “Album title,” “Date (newest first),” “Date (oldest first),” or “Date (modified).” With auto-sorting turned on, any new albums you include in a gallery will automatically fall into the proper order (depending on which sorting option you chose).

Lastly, if you’d like to edit an album included in a gallery, click that album’s edit button. You will be redirected to the “Edit album” section for that album.

Slideshows

Director's "Slideshows" area is a bookmarking utility to record URLs of slideshows that are linked to Director. This makes it easy to proof changes made inside Director by launching associated slideshows in a separate browser window. When there's at least one bookmarked slideshow, an extra tab containing your slideshow bookmarks will appear the far right of Director's main navigation for easy access anywhere within the application.

HOW TO ADD A SLIDESHOW BOOKMARK

Click on the "Slideshows" tab in the main navigation. Then click on the "Add a slideshow" button. Two fields will appear below. Give your slideshow bookmark a name you'll remember, then enter the absolute URL to the HTML document containing your slideshow SWF. When complete click "Add slideshow." Your bookmark will then be available throughout Director. To create additional bookmarks, simply repeat the process.

Content uploading and importing

This chapter provides more detail on the types of images and videos you can upload, as well as options for getting your content into Director. Let's get started on the ground floor with file formats.

ACCEPTABLE CONTENT FORMATS

With images, Director accepts GIF, PNG, or JPG. The images may be any DPI, and should always be larger (in dimension and optionally DPI) than your slideshow. This way published images are downscaled, as opposed to upscaled, which can have harmful effects on image quality.

Note: PNG and GIF require a slideshow SWF published as Flash 8 or higher.

As for video, you may upload FLVs, or videos encoded in H.264 including MP4, M4V, M4A, MOV and/or 3GP. Note though that H.264 formats will only playback in SlideShowPro if a user's browser has the *very* latest version of Flash Player 9 installed, which at the time of this writing was "Flash Player 9 Update 3." For this reason it is recommended you only upload FLVs.

Lastly, you may also upload SWFs, but not SWF videos. SlideShowPro treats SWFs as if they were images, and only engages its media player if one of the video file formats listed above are delivered.

ACCEPTABLE CONTENT FORMATS FOR ON-DEMAND PUBLISHING

As redundant as it may sound, Director's "on-demand image publishing" system, which takes imagery and formats it to fit SlideShowPro, only works with images. If video content is uploaded, Director will return your original video "as is" without modifications. By default, SlideShowPro will proportionally scale your video to fit the component, but if you'd rather show video without scaling, you should upload "finished" videos to Director that are already formatted to fit SlideShowPro's Content Area, and (optionally) set *Content Scale* to "None" in SlideShowPro.

UPLOADING CONTENT

There are three ways to add content to Director: through a web browser, via FTP to an existing album, or importing an existing SlideShowPro gallery.

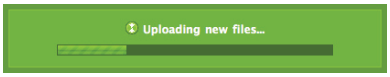


Figure: Upload progress dialog

OPTION ONE: WEB BROWSER

The easiest and fastest way to upload content is through your web browser. Click on the "Upload" sub-navigation link inside any album, then select the type of content you want to upload. After selection, click the "Browse" button. A window will open in your operating system for you to select images and/or videos on your local machine. Select as many as you want, then click "Okay." Your selections will appear on the right side of the "Upload" page. Click "Upload" to confirm. A progress bar will appear (shown above right) to let you know when you can expect the upload to be complete.

Note: Some web hosts place limits on browser file size uploads. Your limit is displayed in the "Add content" module. If you need to upload a larger file use option two below.

OPTION TWO: FTP

Once an album has been created in Director, you have the option of uploading content to it with an FTP client. Here's how.

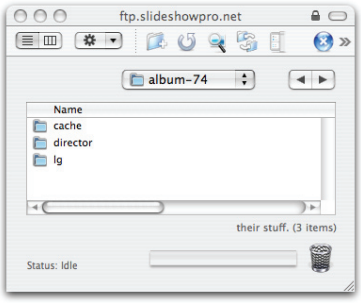


Figure: Album folder opened via FTP

First click on the "Summary" link for the album you'll be transferring content to. Note the album ID assigned to it in the "XML Info" module. Next, navigate to your Director installation via FTP, open the "albums" directory, then open the folder with the album ID you're looking for. Inside will be three folders: "cache," "director," and "lg" (see left for example). The "lg" folder is where the original content you upload is stored for that particular album. Upload your content here.

When complete, return to Director in your web browser and click the "Upload" sub-navigation link for the album you uploaded content to. A message will appear informing you that new content has been found and imported automatically.

OPTION THREE: IMPORT EXISTING GALLERIES

If you've been using SlideShowPro for a while with your own XML file and slideshow content, and are now upgrading to Director, you may import your existing content. Here's how.

> Note: If you would like to watch a video of this process, a QuickTime screencast is available here: http://slideshowpro.net/mov/screencast/director_import.mov

Navigate to your Director installation via FTP. Create a new folder named anything you want inside the `albums/imports/` directory. For this walkthrough, we'll name it "my_import." Upload your XML file and slideshow content to `albums/imports/my_import`. You do not need to upload your SWF, HTML, or FLA.

> Note: The XML file *must* be named "images.xml." Director will not be able to find your XML file if named otherwise. You may edit this on the server side through your FTP client.

Next, return to Director in your web browser. Click on the "Galleries" tab in the main navigation. At the top of the Galleries index page you should see a dialog similar to the one pictured below.

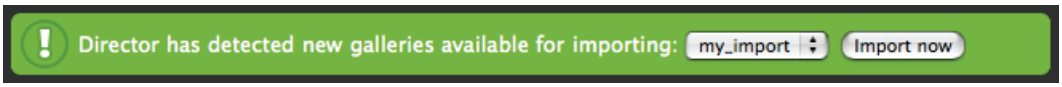


Figure: New galleries notification

Make sure you have the correct folder selected, then click "Import now." New albums will be created in Director for each album in your imported gallery, as well as a new gallery that contains all of the albums it just created.

Displaying content in SlideShowPro

SlideShowPro can link to any album or gallery in Director. When linked, the content associated with that album and/or gallery is published on-demand, and tailored to fit the dimensions of SlideShowPro. You may continually change the dimensions of the component, or alter user interface options through the Component Inspector panel, and Director will always return first generation imagery formatted to fit your instance of SlideShowPro.

HOW LINKING WORKS

Every album and gallery in Director offers an "XML File Path." This is a unique absolute URL to that album/gallery inside Director. SlideShowPro uses this URL to communicate with Director and request the content it needs.

WHERE TO LOCATE XML FILE PATHS

Because they're often used, Director publishes XML File Paths in a few different places. These include the Snapshot page (which displays the five most recently modified albums and galleries), the index pages for albums ("Albums" in main navigation) and galleries ("Galleries" in the main navigation), as well as the "Summary" page for albums and galleries. In each case the process is the same. Simply click the "Copy" button and the URL will be copied to your clipboard.

HOW TO ASSIGN AN XML FILE PATH

With your XML File Path URL copied, switch over to Flash and click on the instance of SlideShowPro on the Stage of your FLA (to select it). Open the Component Inspector panel. Scroll to the bottom until you see *XML File Path*. Delete the default "images.xml" parameter value, and paste the URL you copied from Director. Then change the next parameter down, *XML File Type*, to "Director."

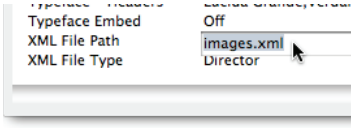


Figure: Modifying XML File Path

HOW TO ADJUST IMAGE QUALITY, SIZE, AND SCALE

SlideShowPro offers two parameters that are used by Director's on-demand image publishing system: *Director Large Image Settings* and *Director Thumb Image Settings*.

Director Large Image Settings accepts three numerical values. The first is image quality, which accepts a range of 0-100 (100 being the highest quality), and has a default value of 80. The second is sharpening, which accepts a range of 0-5 (5 being the strongest), and has a default value of 1. The third is image scale, which accepts a range of 0-100 (100 being 'normal'), and has a default value of 100. This last value, image scale, should only be used if you are setting SlideShowPro's *Content Scale* parameter to either "None" or "Downscale Only," and want Director to publish images that are smaller than SlideShowPro's Content Area dimensions.

Director Thumb Image Settings accepts the same values as *Large*, but without the scaling option.

Managing users

SlideShowPro Director allows you to share a single installation of Director with other users; each with varying levels of editorial control. This chapter will explain how users are created and managed.

YOUR USER PROFILE

To view your own user profile, click on your name next to "Hello" at the top right any page inside Director. It is here you may change your profile settings, including username, contact e-mail address, password, snapshot module settings, as well as uploading an avatar to identify yourself within the application.

MANAGING USERS

A "Users" link will appear next to your username at the top of the screen (if you are the user that installed the software). Clicking the link takes you to the Users section, where you can provide other users with access to your Director installation. Director offers three user roles:

Editors - Can edit any album attribute, but cannot add or delete anything.

Contributors - Same permissions as editors, along with the ability to add or delete albums, images or galleries.

Administrators - All of the permissions of both editors and contributors, along with the ability to manage users.

> Note: Only the original installer can administer users who have Administrators permissions. Subsequent users given administrators permissions can only manage users with Editor or Contributor status.

Questions and answers

Common usability and technical questions concerning Director are included in this chapter. If at the end of this chapter your question remains unanswered, visit the Director forum at slideshowpro.net.

INSTALLATION IS ASKING FOR A KEY. KEY? WHAT KEY?

After purchasing Director, you were issued a unique key to install and use the software at one domain. To obtain this key, login to your member profile at slideshowpro.net. On the right side of the page will be a table containing your key. Copy / paste this key into the applicable installation screen.

DIRECTOR DOESN'T ACCEPT MY KEY. WHY?

Director's license allows you to install and use the application under one domain. If you are attempting to install the application at a second domain, you will need to purchase an additional license / key through your member profile at slideshowpro.net. If you are *not* attempting a second install, double check to make sure the key you are pasting is exactly the same as the key displayed on your profile page. Lastly, there's stands a rare chance that slideshowpro.net may be temporarily unavailable. The web site must be live in order to authenticate your key.

SLIDESHOWPRO ISN'T LOADING DIRECTOR CONTENT. WHAT'S UP?

There are two common reasons for this. One, you forgot to set *XML File Type* in SlideShowPro's Component Inspector panel to "Director." Two, your slideshow is hosted at a different domain than the one Director is installed at, and the Flash Player is shutting down your XML request (for security reasons). How do you get around this? By giving the Flash Player permission through a "Cross Domain Policy File." Create a text file and name it `crossdomain.xml`. Then add the following:

```
<cross-domain-policy>
        <allow-access-from domain="" />
        <allow-access-from domain="" />
</cross-domain-policy>
```

This is the basic template. Fill `domain` with the domain where your SWF resides. For example:

```
<cross-domain-policy>
        <allow-access-from domain="www.mydomain.com" />
        <allow-access-from domain="mydomain.com" />
</cross-domain-policy>
```

Notice that the domain is listed twice — once with `www` and once without. This is in case the SWF is loaded from a URL that doesn't include `www`.

Save the file. Upload `crossdomain.xml` to the root of the domain where Director resides. Reload your HTML/SWF in your web browser. Content should now load from Director.

DO I HAVE TO USE DIRECTOR'S ON-DEMAND IMAGE PUBLISHING?

No. If you're particular about your slideshow content and don't want SlideShowPro Director (or SlideShowPro for that matter) to scale, resize, or touch your images in any way, you can get around the publishing system by uploading imagery that's already pre-formatted to fit SlideShowPro's

Content Area. Then in SlideShowPro, set *Content Scale* to "None." This will instruct Director to return the original images you uploaded and not attempt to resize / format them in any way.

CAN I UPLOAD MY OWN ALBUM PREVIEW?

Yes. Click the "Upload" link in your album, and select "Album preview" from the drop-down. Browse your local machine for the image you wish to use. After upload, your custom album preview will be automatically set to "Inactive" (so it doesn't appear as slideshow content) but will be used for your album preview image.

CAN I UPLOAD MY OWN THUMBNAIL NAV / PREVIEW IMAGES?

No. These are always generated by Director, and cannot be substituted with custom versions.

HOW DO I CREATE A THUMBNAIL IMAGE FOR A VIDEO?

Figure: Default video image

When a video is uploaded it is assigned a default "movie" image (shown left) to identify it in Director, as well as in SlideShowPro's thumbnail navigation and link previews. If you'd like to supply your own image, upload that image to the album containing the video, then go the "Content" area. Click and hold on the uploaded image, and drag it on top of the video's default image. The video's default image will darken slightly to show when you can release. Upon release, your dragged image will now represent the video in all the aforementioned places.

I GET AN ERROR WHEN UPLOADING CONTENT. ANY IDEAS?

Open `ssp_director/.htaccess` and ensure it contains the following:

```
<IfModule mod_security.c>
        SecFilterScanPOST Off
</IfModule>
```

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN A NEW VERSION IS OUT?

Director's footer area will display a "New Version Available" hyperlink when an update is available. Clicking the link will take you to the member area of slideshowpro.net to download. You can turn off update checking in the "Snapshot Settings" module on your profile page, if you prefer.

Once your plugin is created, it will show up automatically in the links module as one of your link template options.

I UPDATED DIRECTOR CONTENT, BUT IT'S NOT SHOWING UP IN SLIDESHOWPRO. WHY?

Your old Director content may be temporarily cached. Try clearing Director's album cache through the Preferences page, then reloading your slideshow.

HOW DO I CREATE MY OWN LINK TEMPLATE?

Director uses a template plug-in system when generating hyperlinks for all content in an album. If you'd like to write your own template, open `ssp_director/plugins/links`. It includes a "sample" link plugin for you to see. To create your own, create a new folder inside `plugins/links` and copy the sample `template.php` file over to it. Use the sample as a guide. It shows all the available variables.

> Note: Make sure to always create your plug-ins in ssp_director/plugins/links so an upgrade won't overwrite them.

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